

AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-14. (Canceled).
15. (Currently Amended) A bituminous binder composition comprising:
- (a) 60 - 99.75 wt.% bitumen;
 - (b) 0.05 - 5.0 wt.% of an elastomer;
 - (c) 0.1 - 30.0 wt.% of a mono-alkyl ester of rapeseed oil ~~a vegetable oil or an animal oil~~; and
 - (d) 0.1 - 5.0 wt.% of ethylene bis-stearamide ~~an amide additive~~;
- each wt.% based on the total weight of the bituminous binder composition.
16. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the bitumen is a paraffinic or a naphthenic bitumen with an average penetration of 10 to 350 x 10⁻¹ mm.
17. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the elastomer is a polymer or a resin comprising two adjacent butadiene units.
18. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the elastomer is a polybutadiene, a butadiene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock terpolymer, a isoprene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene triblock terpolymer, or a combination thereof.
19. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 17, wherein the elastomer is a polybutadiene, a butadiene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock terpolymer, a isoprene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene triblock terpolymer, or a combination thereof.
20. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 4.5 wt.% of the elastomer, based on the total weight of the bituminous binder composition.

21-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the bituminous binder composition comprises 0.3 to 25.0 wt.% of the mono-alkyl ester of rapeseed oil ~~a vegetable or an animal oil~~, based on the total weight of the bituminous binder composition.
24. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
25. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 20, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
26. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 23, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
27. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 24, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
28. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 25, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
29. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 26, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
30. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 24 comprising 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.
31. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 25 comprising 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.

32. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 26 comprising 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.
33. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a bituminous binder composition comprising the steps of:
- (i) mixing an elastomer and a mono-alkyl ester of rapeseed ~~a vegetable or animal~~ oil at a temperature of 50° to 150°C;
 - (ii) adding at least a part of the mixture as obtained in step (i) to bitumen, the bitumen having been preheated to a temperature in the range of 100 °C to 210 °C;
 - (iii) adding ethylene bis-stearamide ~~an amide-additive~~ to the mixture as obtained in step (ii); and
 - (iv) optionally adding a curing agent to mixture as obtained in step (iii).
34. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the bitumen is a paraffinic or a naphthenic bitumen with an average penetration of 10 to 350 x 10⁻¹ mm.
35. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the elastomer is a polymer or a resin comprising two adjacent butadiene units.
36. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the elastomer is a polybutadiene, a butadiene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock terpolymer, a isoprene-styrene diblock copolymer or, styrene-isoprene-styrene triblock terpolymer, or a combination thereof.
37. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 35, wherein the elastomer is a polybutadiene, a butadiene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock terpolymer, a isoprene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene triblock terpolymer, or a combination thereof.
38. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 4.5 wt.% of the elastomer, based on the total weight of the bituminous binder composition.

39-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 33, wherein the bituminous binder composition comprises 0.3 to 25.0 wt.% of the mono-alkyl ester of rapeseed oil a ~~vegetable or an animal oil~~, based on the total weight of the bituminous binder composition.
42. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
43. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 38, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
44. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
45. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 42, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
46. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 43, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
47. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 44, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
48. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 42, wherein the bituminous binder composition comprises 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.
49. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 43, wherein the bituminous binder composition comprises 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.

50. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 44, wherein the bituminous binder composition comprises 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.
51. (Currently Amended) A process for dressing a surface comprising coating the surface with a bituminous binder composition comprising bitumen, elastomer, mono-alkyl ester of rapeseed oil ~~a vegetable oil or an animal oil~~, ethylene bis-stearamide ~~an amide~~ additive.
52. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 51, wherein the surface is selected from the group consisting of roads and joints.